

# ENERGY FOCUS

NEWSLETTER OF DOMINICA'S ELECTRICITY REGULATOR

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# OOCUR 2014- DOMINICA

Men and women who are experts in their field across the Caribbean and the United States converged at the Fort Young Hotel in the Commonwealth of Dominica for the much anticipated 12th Annual Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) Conference.

The much anticipated event began with an informal welcome reception at the Terrace of the Fort Young Hotel on Tuesday November 18, 2014 where participants from the 12 member states and further afield as well as invited guests mingled and relaxed before the real business of OOCUR scheduled to commence the following day. Chairman of the IRC Bernadette Lambert along with OOCUR's Chairman John Avery (PUC Belize) welcomed the participants and invited guests and looked forward to a successful 3 day conference.

The conference officially began on Wednesday November 19, 2014 with an opening ceremony at which a formal welcome message was delivered by OOCUR's Chairman John Avery. The feature address was delivered by Project Officer Alexia George of the Geothermal Project Management Unit on behalf of the Minister for Energy Hon Rayburn Blackmoore. Alexis highlighted the IRC's involvement in drastically improving service within the energy sector. Declaring the conference open he wished a fruitful and successful event.

Day one of the conference focused on Electricity Regulation with presentations from practitioners in that field. A panel discussion on Renewable Energy with updates on the Geothermal Project being undertaken in Dominica was forefront for discussion.

Day two focused on Telecommunications. The highlight of the day was a two part panel discussion on Over The Top (OTT) services to include Whatsapp which was said by Telecoms providers to be non beneficial. The afternoon of day two was devoted to water regulations which highlighted a number of water issues which exist in Trinidad & Tobago. Participants got a chance to unwind on a evening boat ride to the south with eats, drinks and music.

Day three saw general presentations a trip to the Geothermal site, the Freshwater Lake and Screw's Sulphur Spas in Laudat. OOCUR 2014 came to close with a cocktail and dance at the Old Mill Cultural Centre. (Pictures in

# IRC Bids Farewell to Cassell

After serving as a Commissioner on the Board of the Independent Regulatory Commission from June 1, 2010, David Cassell's term came to an end on October 31 2014.

He was described as an asset to the IRC having provided invaluable advise in decision making and overall running of affairs of the IRC.

The board, management and staff held a farewell dinner in his honour. He was presented with a token of heartfelt appreciation from IRC by Administrative Officer Florestine Felix- Laurent. Cassel has represented the IRC and by extension Dominica at a number of regional and international forums during his term as Commissioner.



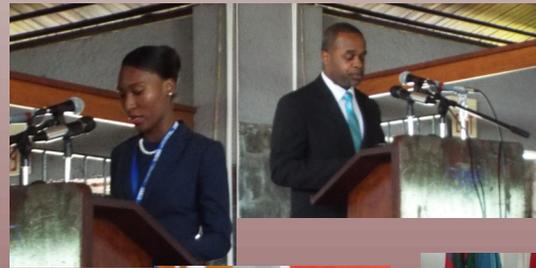
**Au Revoir**

# OOCUR 2014- DOMINICA— IN PICTURES



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## Opening Ceremony



## Presentations



# Presentations



**Field Trip to the Geothermal site & Freshwater Lake**



# OOCUR 2014- DOMINICA— IN PICTURES CONT'D



**Cocktail, Dance,  
Cultural  
Presentations  
Fun  
Fun Fun!!**



## CREF 2014

A delegation represented Dominica at the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF 2014) from October 6– 8, 2014. The delegation illustrated initiatives in renewable energy which are taking place at national level. They also identified where the international community could be of assistance.



## Geothermal Developers/ Investors Visit IRC

The French Consortium interested in development of the Geothermal resources for the generation of electricity paid a courtesy call to the IRC on November 26, 2014. They advised that they were focused on working on requirements and studies of the plant and that location was an important issue. The team clarified that they would work with DOMLEC regarding the building of the transmission line. Invitations to Tender for the construction of



the line would start in the beginning of the second quarter of 2015 as they would not be directly involved in construction. Executive Director of IRC Mr McCaskey also advised that there was need for the Commission to validate the provisions made in the Power Purchase Agreement, as tariff is important. The team also confirmed that they were currently working on exporting of energy and are already having discussions with the Government of France. The investors plan to visit again towards the end of the first quarter of 2015.

Independent  
Regulatory  
Commission





*Happy Birthday!*  
*Mr McCaskey*

May this Christmas be bright and cheerful and may the New Year begin on a prosperous note

**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year**

From the Board, Management & Staff of the

